(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the area of land covered for sowing of mustard during 2006-07 alongwith the area covered for the same during 2004-05 and 2005-06; and

(d) what would be the estimated production of mustard in the current year due to less covering of land for sowing?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI KANTI LAL BHURIA): (a) and (b) As per the latest reports received in the weekly Crop Weather Watch Group (CWWG) meeting held on 17.11.2006 in the Ministry, the area coverage under Rapeseed and Mustard during Rabi 2006-07 is 53.37 lakh hectares compared to 56.76 lakh hectares during the corresponding period last year. States of Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh, Haryana, Madhya Pradesh and Assam have reported less coverage this year compared to last year as on 17.11.2006. However, the sowing of Rapeseed and Mustard is under progress and more area coverage is likely.

(c) The final area coverage under Rapeseed and Mustard was 70.74 lakh hectares during 2005-06 and 73.16 lakh hectares during 2004-05.

(d) Sowing fo Rapeseed & Mustard is not year over. The 2nd advance estimates of production of Rapeseed and Mustard including other major crops are usually brought out in January, 2007.

Financial package for distressed farmers

276. SHRI MANOHAR JOSHI:
SHRI K.CHANDRAN PILLAI:
SHRI MOTIUR RAHMAN:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have announced/given various financial packages to assist farmers to overcome economic distress;

(b) if so, the details thereof, State-wise and district-wise;

(c) whether it is also a fact that in spite of numerous measures (including financial packages) announced by Government, the suicide by farmers continues unabated; and

(d) if so, the details of proper perspective and strategy chalked out to analyse and tackle this problem?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI KANTI LAL BHURIA): (a) and (b) The Government of India has recently approved a rehabilitation package for mitigating distress of farmers in 31 suicide prone districts in the four States of Andhra Pradesh, Maharashtra, Karnataka and Kerala. The package aims at establishing a sustainable and viable farming and livelihood support system through debt relief to farmers, improved supply of institutional credit, crop centric approach to agriculture, assured irrigation facilities, watershed management, better extension and farming support services, and subsidiary income opportunities through horticulture, livestock, dairying, fisheries, etc. The package involves a total amount of Rs. 16978.69 crore. The State-wise break-up is as under:

Andhra Pradesh	-	Rs. 9650.55 crore
Karnataka	-	Rs. 2689.64 crore
Kerala	-	Rs. 765.24 crore
Maharashtra	-	Rs. 3873.26 crore

(c) and (d) There have been reports of suicide by farmers. As the rehabilitation package has recently been approved for implementation, it is too early to assess its impact at ground level.

Impact of liberalisation policies on agriculture

277. SHRI MOINUL HASSAN: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware about the impact of liberalization, privatization and globalisation (LPG) policies on Indian agriculture and on lives of millions of peasants and agricultural workers leading to unprecedented phenomenon of suicides of thousands of indebted peasants and agricultural workers in various States; and

(b) if so, the steps Government propose to take in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI KANTI LAL BHURIA): (a) and (b) The various studies conducted and the reports of State Governments have attributed the reasons for suicide by farmers mainly on crop failure, indebtedness, drought and social economic insecurity.